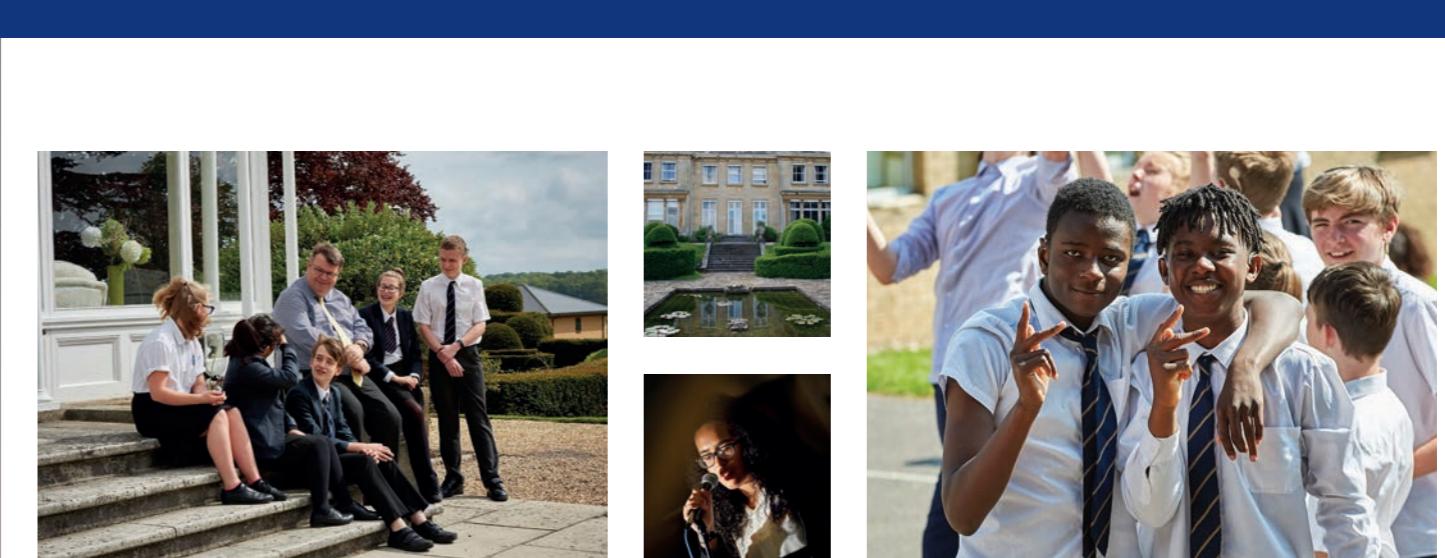




Set your sights high



*Securing the future of  
deaf children and young people*



## Welcome,

We are the largest school for the deaf in the UK. We take children from Year 1 to Year 13 (aged 5-19) across our Primary and Secondary sites. We offer boarding and day places.

Our staff are all dedicated to deaf education and have all the skills to give you the optimum learning experience in small classes of 8-10. All our teaching staff are subject specialists as well as trained Teachers of the Deaf (TOD). In addition, we have Teaching Assistants who support most classes.

We have a large team of care staff in the boarding houses. They will make sure you settle into boarding and are happy and active. A waking member of staff is available throughout the night in each boarding house in case you need anything.



*Did you know?*  
We teach using the **oral** method.  
This means we do not use sign in the classroom.

We use the oral/auditory approach which means we do not use BSL (British Sign Language) in the classroom setting. If you come to Mary Hare, you will thrive on learning to use your voice and developing your lipreading skills, whether you are from a hearing or a deaf family. We maximise pupils' use of residual hearing and listening skills which also helps to develop language. We believe English is really important – it is the language of the national curriculum and of the outside world. We want you to have good English skills and to achieve the best grades possible so that you have more choices open to you in the future.



Oral/auditory  
approach

# Something for everyone



Did you know?  
**full curriculum**  
We offer a **full curriculum**  
that is on par with your hearing friends.

We offer something for everyone!

One of our strengths is that we can cater for all ranges of ability, from the more academic pupils to those looking for more practical options. The primary children also follow the national curriculum and enjoy a variety of topics throughout the year.

Whether you have a flair for the creative, the scientific or the more practical subjects, there will be choices for you.

Many pupils study all subjects at GCSE level, whilst others study a mixture to include BTECs and the more vocational subjects. We offer a wide range of A Levels and BTECs in the 6th Form.

## Did you know?

Most of our students following an academic route achieve  
**at least one grade higher**  
in every subject compared to national expectations.

We are here to help you achieve your full potential!

We want to make sure you will make good progress with us. We will help you identify your potential and make the right choice of subjects.

From the Primary School onwards you will be taught Computing, Art, Drama, Dance, Music and Sport. Some children may also be taught French. Once at Secondary, you will be taught a wider range of subjects to enable you to have a wider choice at GCSE.

Many pupils will be working below their expected year group. We aim to make up ground for you with the additional support we offer.

For the most able pupils, we ensure that the breadth and depth of progress is made. Lots of pupils stay on for 6th Form to study A Levels, so GCSE choices can be key.



Your potential,  
Your choices





Did you know?

You will have a **large deaf peer group** to choose your friends from.

Make friends for life!

Boarding will give you the opportunity to spend more time with the friends you make in school. You will socialise with them after school, go to the Youth Club with them and grow with them as you move up through the school. Many of our pupils keep in touch after they leave Mary Hare, throughout their University and working years. You may even be related to an ex-pupil!

You will be surrounded by others just like you – others who understand your deafness; who have fun with you in the boarding house; who want to be part of a large deaf peer group, just like you do .

Friends for life





Joining in is fun!

## Did you know?

We have a full programme of  
**activities and clubs** after school.

Boarding is fun! Joining in with your friends is fun!

We believe that having fun and taking part in social and physical activities is really important for your development. You can join in in many different ways. After school activities include, playing team sports against other local mainstream and independent schools; swimming in our heated indoor pool; orienteering; working towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award and learning new life skills.

Weekend and evening activities include going to the Youth Club with your friends; wall climbing in Reading; canoeing; trips to the coast, to London, to theme parks and to the local shopping centre.

You will never be bored!



# Confidence and self esteem



IDENTITY

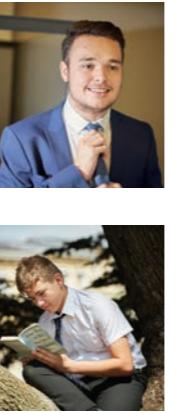
## Did you know?

You will have lots of opportunities to build  
**your confidence**  
and communication skills.

Pupils tell us all the time that being at Mary Hare has helped them grow in confidence and to feel 'the same' as everyone else. Your deafness will not be seen as a barrier to socialising with friends; you will not feel embarrassed to put your hand up in class and ask a question.

Our pupils tell us they are proud to be deaf and do not feel they need to hide their deafness to 'fit in'.

Whether you join our Primary, Secondary or 6th Form, you will be constantly building your confidence through things such as performance, public speaking and presenting. We encourage our 6th Form pupils to help with Open Days, to take part in work placements and to undertake voluntary work within the community and overseas.



## Did you know? Our pupils develop a strong **deaf identity** ready for the world beyond Mary Hare.

We hope that with us, you will learn new skills, take up new activities and learn more about yourself and your strengths and weaknesses.

Most of all we want you to be proud of who you are, of your achievements and of where your future takes you.

All our pupils learn something about themselves as they move through the school; some find they have a musical streak and learn a new instrument; others become proficient in a sports activity when they never believed they were sporty; many find a love for French, which all pupils study up to Year 9 and which many are excluded from studying in mainstream. We hope that, because of our broad curriculum and our wide range of activities and clubs, you will find something new and fun to challenge yourself.

*It's great being me*



# Getting a great start



Did you know?

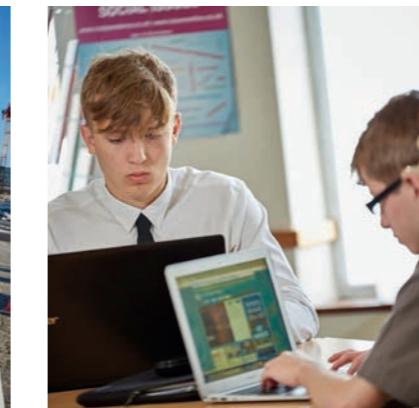
We are the **largest**

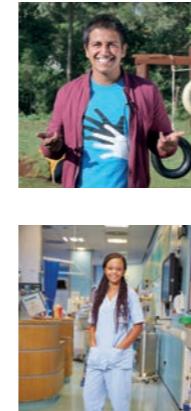
centre in the UK for deaf pupils wanting  
to study A Levels and BTECs.

The majority of our pupils move into the 6th Form to study a course of A Levels, BTECs or vocational subjects. 6th Form will give you lots of opportunities to explore your future options, and to remove any obstacles to reaching your potential.

You will have a great social life and will make friends for life; you will learn to study independently which will be a great skill if moving on to University; you will have support from our Speech and Language team to improve interview and communication skills.

99% of our students move onto education or employment. Many go onto University to study a diverse range of subjects including Computing, Marketing, Philosophy, Criminology and Midwifery as well as subjects such as Archaeology and Maths.





## Did you know? **careers**

Our alumni have **careers**  
in a diverse range of public and private sectors.

We encourage independence in the 6th Form. You will either share with one other pupil or have your own room. You will be encouraged to do your own washing, to cook for yourself and friends and to plan your time wisely.

You will build confidence via work placements relating to your studies, organising social events or taking up office such as a prefect. All will make you more responsible and independent and give you vital skills that you can carry forward into further education or the world of work.

# Mythbuster



## **It's not worth applying, the LA won't fund.**

Over 90% of families are successful in getting their child into Mary Hare.

## **Our LA doesn't fund to go to Mary Hare.**

We currently work with over 80 LAs and we have an average 80% success rate at tribunals.

## **A residential placement harms social inclusion.**

We know it supports social interactions. Our children constantly say "now we have real friends".

## **Your child does not sign so would not fit in.**

Pupils use a range of communication methods outside the classroom. Many pupils learn signing when socialising with peers. It is for you and your child to decide.

## **Your child uses British Sign Language so needs sign support in the classroom.**

Pupils who come to us with BSL as their first language cope with no signing in the classroom because of our specialist setting which includes additional visual support. They learn to listen and use their voice.

## **Mary Hare offers deaf children a 'bubble' but what about when they leave?**

ALL of our Year 11's go out on Work Experience, for example. We believe in building skills and self esteem in a way which is transferable.

## **Your child is not profoundly deaf so does not need Mary Hare.**

40% of our pupils are severely and moderately deaf.

## **I can't face Tribunal.**

We will help you and help you to find additional support. Families who want Mary Hare win 80% of tribunals.

## **My child isn't clever enough for Mary Hare.**

Mary Hare is big enough to teach classes of children with similar profiles and small enough to know every child. We have a fully comprehensive intake.

## **My child is too clever for Mary Hare.**

We have a proven track record of helping pupils to get top grades in a whole range of subjects. Don't worry, we will stretch and challenge!

# Come & Visit

We would love to meet you and show you around our wonderful school. We have a number of Open Days throughout the year which you can book via our website. We are also happy to show families around individually.





### Mary Hare Primary School

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✉️ primary@maryhare.org.uk

📍 Mill Hall, Pigeons Farm Road,  
Newbury, Berkshire RG19 8XA

### Mary Hare School

📞 01635 244 200

✉️ enquiries@maryhare.org.uk

📍 Arlington Manor, Snelmore Common,  
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BQ

For more information  
visit our website

[maryhare.org.uk](http://maryhare.org.uk)

